

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A hypertext browser for retrieving data from a selected one of a plurality of databases, comprising:
 - a plurality of browser components, each of which is operable to retrieve data from a corresponding one of said databases;
 - means for receiving a hypertext request from a requester specifying data contained in one of said databases;
 - means responsive to receiving said request for directing said request to the browser component corresponding to said one of said databases to permit said browser component to retrieve the data specified in said request.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 in which said request specifies one of said browser components, said means responsive to receiving said request directing said request to the browser component specified in said request.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 in which said means responsive to said request generates a common portion of a hypertext reply to said requester.
4. The apparatus of claim 3 in which said common portion comprises a header portion.
5. The apparatus of claim 3 in which said common portion comprises a footer portion.
6. The apparatus of claim 1 in which each of said browser components generates a browser-specific portion of a hypertext reply to said requester.
7. The apparatus of claim 1 in which each of said browser components has a translator component associated therewith, said translator component intermediating between said browser

component and said database and generating a request-specific portion of said browser-specific portion of said hypertext reply to said requester.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 in which said browser component generates a non-request-specific portion of said browser-specific portion of said hypertext reply to said requester.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 in which one of said databases comprises an interface repository.

10. The apparatus of claim 1 in which one of said databases stores naming contexts.

11. The apparatus of claim 1 in which one of said databases stores Java classes.

12. A method for retrieving data from a selected one of a plurality of databases, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of browser components, each of which is operable to retrieve data from a corresponding one of said databases;

receiving a hypertext request from a requester specifying data contained in one of said databases;

in response to receiving said request, directing said request to the browser component corresponding to said one of said databases to permit said browser component to retrieve the data specified in said request.

13. The method of claim 12 in which said request specifies one of said browser components and is directed to the browser component specified in said request.

14. The method of claim 1 in which each of said browser components generates a browser-specific portion of a hypertext reply to said requester.

15. The method of claim 1 in which each of said browser components has a translator component associated therewith, said translator component intermediating between said browser component and said database and generating a request-specific portion of said browser-specific portion of said hypertext reply to said requester.

16. The method of claim 15 in which said browser component generates a non-request-specific portion of said browser-specific portion of said hypertext reply to said requester.

17. The method of claim 12 in which one of said databases comprises an interface repository.

18. The method of claim 12 in which one of said databases stores naming contexts.

19. The method of claim 12 in which one of said databases stores Java classes.

20. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for retrieving data from a selected one of a plurality of databases, said method steps comprising:

providing a plurality of browser components, each of which is operable to retrieve data from a corresponding one of said databases;

receiving a hypertext request from a requester specifying data contained in one of said databases;

in response to receiving said request, directing said request to the browser component corresponding to said one of said databases to permit said browser component to retrieve the data specified in said request.

21. The program storage device of claim 20 in which said request specifies one of said browser components and is directed to the browser component specified in said request.

22. The program storage device of claim 20 in which each of said browser components generates a browser-specific portion of a hypertext reply to said requester.

23. The program storage device of claim 20 in which each of said browser components has a translator component associated therewith, said translator component intermediating between said browser component and said database and generating a request-specific portion of said browser-specific portion of said hypertext reply to said requester.

24. The program storage device of claim 23 in which said browser component generates a non-request-specific portion of said browser-specific portion of said hypertext reply to said requester.

25. The program storage device of claim 20 in which one of said databases comprises an interface repository.

26. The program storage device of claim 20 in which one of said databases stores naming contexts.

27. The program storage device of claim 20 in which one of said databases stores Java classes.